



Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda  
Florida House of Representatives  
District 9

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda  
Tel. 850- 488-0965

**Rep. Rehwinkel Vasilinda Urges Legislature: Renewables Over Nuclear**

Concerned about the increasing costs to build and operate nuclear power plants and the need for more renewable energy investments, Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee) has filed a bill to repeal a Florida law that allows utility companies to recover costs for siting, designing, licensing and constructing of nuclear and integrated gasification combined cycle power plants.

Since 2009, Rep. Rehwinkel Vasilinda has been urging the Public Service Commission and Florida's Cabinet to re-think Florida's energy policies and the large role nuclear power plays in Florida's energy future. HB 4161 is one more such step the Representative has taken to put an end to the high-cost Floridians pay for nuclear power plants. Also, the catastrophic threat of a nuclear meltdown facing Japan during the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami last week is a warning sign Rep. Rehwinkel Vasilinda says Florida needs to consider more seriously when investing in nuclear energy plants as a source of Florida's energy future.

"I believe we can do more in Florida to produce truly clean, safe and renewable energy that can decrease our dependency on foreign oil and help families afford a good quality of life," said Rep. Rehwinkel Vasilinda. "Nuclear energy has a high price and the cost recovery to families is an unjust price to pay. The transportation of materials to produce nuclear energy across state lines and permanent disposal are fraught with potential legal liability and risks to our national security and health. Even with the ability to recycle some of the waste, dangerous waste will remain for thousands of years. It is unfair and unjust to pawn yet another problem off on others and the next generation."

As an alternative, Rep. Rehwinkel Vasilinda has also filed legislation to create a Public Benefits Fund (HB 219) to support and sustain renewable energy projects in Florida as well as HB 1281 enabling local governments to raise sales tax revenues for financial assistance to homeowners who make energy efficiency improvements or install renewable energy devices.